

## MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 9 September 2004 meeting of the Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 1200 hours in the Fort Hood Officers Club, Building 5764.

2. Membership Attendance:

a. Members Present: LTG(Ret) Taylor, Chairman; CSM(R) Cayton, Vice Chairman; MG(Ret) Meyer, Assoc. Member; COL(Ret) Gauer; COL(Ret) Portmann; COL(Ret) Somera; COL(Ret) Davis; LTC(Ret) Woodward; CW3(Ret) Hanger; 1SG(Ret) Stotts; 1SG(Ret) Miller; 1SG(Ret) Fisher; MSG(Ret) Hayner; MSG(Ret) Wood, USAF; SCPO(Ret) Lubasky, USN; and Mrs. Greathouse, Widow.

b. Members Absent: Col(Ret) Oliver, Assoc. Member; CSM(R) Minosky, Member; SFC(Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member.

3. The Chairman called the meeting to order.

4. The Chairman introduced, Ms. Sally Wroblewski, Health Promotion Program Manager, DACH. Ms. Wroblewski gave an update on the Health Fair for Retiree Appreciation Day, 30 Oct 04. She said there would be a new floor plan this year, with most of the services being on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and streamlined to ease flow of traffic. Ongoing Self-Care classes will be given so Retirees will be able to receive OTC medications from the pharmacy at no cost. Also, Family Care Physicians will be on hand to answer questions. Several other stations, including a blood pressure station will be provided as well. Because of cost, no cholesterol screenings or other screenings will be provided. Due to lack of participation in prior years, there will not be a glaucoma screening station either.

4. The Chairman announced that MG(Ret) Murray, NAUS, had accepted to be the Guest Speaker and also that 1SG(Ret) Roy Bratton had accepted to be the Honorary Retiree for the Retiree Appreciation Days, 29-30 October 2004.

5. CSM (Ret) Cayton updated the council on AAFES activities. He said that it had been brought to his attention reference several handicap accessibility and handicap parking issues at the Clear Creek PX (enclosure). CSM(Ret) Cayton said he would see the Clear Creek PX Manager and go through the PX to show him the difficulty of maneuvering in a wheel chair through the PX and also discuss the other handicap issues.

6. COL(Ret) Portmann updated the council on the CSA Retiree Council and the Health Consumer Committee meeting.

a. CSA Retiree Council: Issues submitted to the CSA Retiree Council will be submitted through IMA channels this year. COL(Ret) Portmann and COL(Ret) Gauer volunteered to assist with writing issues for submission to the CSA Council this year.

b. Health Consumer Committee Meeting: Hospital parking is better, still working on making it better. Update on Oncology Clinic: COL DeKoening is still evaluating the issue and would update the retiree council after he updated MEDDAC and CG, III Corps. The Chairman stated it would be a great disappointment to close such a needed facility, not only for retirees and their family members, but active duty and their family members as well. The council discussed that they should not sit by and watch the clinic slip away. The council moved and seconded that the Chairman of the Retiree Council speak on behalf of the council and the retirement community of its concern over the possible closing of such an important facility. (enclosure with additional issues reference the Oncology Clinic).

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8. LTC(Ret) Woodward reported on Volunteer/Club Activities. Ms. Doris Arnett is the new Volunteer Coordinator. In reference to FHOC Membership, he had a copy of the new criteria proposal if any one would like to review it. The Retiree Appreciation Day Round Up Dinner sponsored by the GKCC is being coordinated by Michelle Mallonee and Jack Wade. The menu will be a chicken fried steak dinner and the entertainment will be provided by the singing group "The Messengers." LTC(Ret) Woodward asked for support for door prizes for the dinner.

9. CW3(Ret) Hanger gave an update on commissary activities. He reported on the disparity of pricing between Warrior Way and Clear Creek commissaries and that he would bring it to the attention of the Commissary Council at the next meeting. He also reported that he had just come back from a trip and had visited a commissary that was run by the PX. Prices were within the DECA commissary range and appeared to be well run.

10. SFC(Ret) Waller updated the council on Retiree Appreciation Day activities. Provided hand out and went through the sequence of events. Highlighted the consolidation of the OleTimers Breakfast, Opening Ceremony, and County Fair at the O'club. She informed the council that the newsletter would be out in the next week. It was brought up by the council that some members needed Retirement Council name tags. SFC(Ret) Waller said she would ensure the new members and any other members who needed new tags would have them prior to Retiree Appreciation Days. Council members brought up that extra emphasis should be made at the opening ceremony for Retirees to utilize the busses to participate in the activities. The Chairman asked that it be added to his notes for the opening ceremony and he would make the announcement. AFAP Update: the conference is 6-7 October 2004. COL(Ret) and Mrs. Gauer and Mrs. Shirley Greathouse volunteered to attend.

11. The Chairman opened up the council for an open forum. During open discussion it was moved and passed by the council to invite the new Garrison Commander, COL Bruzese, to attend the next council meeting, 9 December 2004. An invitation letter will be drafted for the Chairman's signature.

12. The Chairman informed the council that the next meeting is scheduled for 9 December 2004, and adjourned the meeting at 1300 hours.

Encl

//Original Signed//  
LTG(Ret) H. G. TAYLOR  
Chairman

Approved/Disapproved

OCT 28 2004

  
DONALD A. BIRD  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

## **ISSUES FROM FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL**

### **SUBJECT: *DPW – Handicap Parking Issues at Clear Creek PX***

- **Handicap Parking – No appropriate parking spaces for handicap vans with wheel chair ramps**
- **Handicap Parking – placement of spaces does not provide easy access for all handicap patrons. All parking spots in front of PX are in the middle rows. There are no Handicap Parking spaces in Aisle A (or those first rows) where it would be easier for some handicapped patrons to access from front side door versus middle front doors. Need to keep handicap parking in middle rows, but also have on first rows.**
- **Disabled Veteran Parking – Old signs clarified must have DV license plates to park there. New signs do not. Disabled Veterans who have less than 50% disability (only have VA disability ID Card) think that they can park there also.**

### **SUBJECT: *AAFES – Clear Creek PX Issues***

- **Restricted wheel chair mobility within PX entrance. Placement of vendors in the middle of the entrance and down middle of entrance hall restricts wheel chair access so they can not maneuver down either side of the vendor kiosks.**
- **Vendor in front of the main entrance (inside as you go in to show ID Card) has taken the place of the benches that were there so people can wait while their spouse shops inside the PX.**
- **Handicap Restroom Stall on front side of PX. The placement of the toilet paper dispensers hinders use of the stall.**
- **Cleanliness of PX restrooms is also a concern.**

### **SUBJECT: *DACH – Oncology Clinic Closure***

- **Council very disappointed that such a needed facility has even a possibility of closing.**
- **Clinic is used by active duty, dependents, retirees and their dependents. Will continue to have a great need for the clinic in the future.**
- **Not a deployment issue – clinic has a contracted civilian nurse.**
- **Chemo Therapy is difficult enough as it is without having to travel to Brooke Army Medical Center.**